

The Electric Mercury

U.S. Army Medical Command Electronic News Summary, March 2001

For more on these and other important stories, see March 2001 printed issue of The Mercury.
This is a service of the Public Affairs Office, Headquarters MEDCOM.

Balanced scorecard: Planners draw map to AMEDD's future

Where do you want to go and how do you get there? A map to answer these questions is the essence of planning and management. The AMEDD will soon have a new map to the future, called the "balanced scorecard." The law requires agencies to have strategic plans and ways to measure results. Army Surgeon General LTG James B. Peake chose the balanced scorecard as the best way to focus the AMEDD on what's most important.

Families, retirees due new benefits

"The biggest platter of benefit changes" since the 1960s, says the TRICARE program's chief. TRICARE is adding benefits, lowering out-of-pocket costs, improving access and reducing irritants. Changes include a pharmacy benefit for retirees over 65, TRICARE eligibility for Medicare-eligible retirees, opening of TRICARE Prime Remote to active-duty families, and dropping most copays for active-duty families in TRICARE Prime.

Patients need help to understand new benefits

AMEDD members must know how to explain new TRICARE benefits to patients, writes Army Surgeon General and MEDCOM Commander LTG James B. Peake in his monthly column. He calls the new benefits an opportunity for Army Medicine.

'Mad cows' pose little threat

Service members and families in Europe need not fear "mad cow" disease if they follow safety rules outlined in consumer-awareness packets distributed in European and Central Commands, officials say. Steps have been taken to keep contaminated meat from being purchased for military consumption. The disease has killed animals in several European lands and some humans have died in England, but it has never been found in the U.S.

Parade horses put best foot forward

Army veterinarians handle medical needs of 360 horses in inaugural parade and 70 working dogs that provided security.

Other important stories in the March *Mercury* include:

- Lead by example, train from experience, maintain and enforce standards, take care of soldiers, adapt to change: 230 command sergeants major craft an “NCO Vision.”
- Customer service in the Alaskan winter takes creativity and determination. Read how Bassett Army Community Hospital handles being Army’s northernmost medical facility.
- Members of 313th Hospital Unit (Surgical), a Missouri Reserve unit, assist and teach in a Kosovo civilian hospital. (A sidebar lists commands supporting Balkans till 2005.)
- Institute of Surgical Research teams fly back burn patients from Guyana and Korea.
- LTC George Peoples, a Walter Reed Army Medical Center cancer researcher, is named one of 10 Outstanding Young Americans by U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce.
- Hammer Awards go to Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine teams.
- Five officers get 2000 Medical Service Corps Award of Excellence: CPT David Condon, CPT Donald Neff, CW2 Daniel Burrhus, CPT Scott Russell, CPT Joel Harris.
- MEDCOM nominates the Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense for the Army Chief of Staff’s Supply Excellence Award for Fiscal Year 2001.
- Three AMEDD soldiers – Amy Massaglia, Fort Hood; Shawna Walker, Alaska; and Claudia Perez, Fort Sam Houston – help Army win Armed Forces soccer crown.
- When MAJ Kathy K. Prue-Owens, Tripler Army Medical Center, called a patient to check his cardiology status, her videoconference gear revealed he had broken his leg.
- Photos: LTC Laura Rogers, Brooke Army Medical Center, in hazardous-substance gear; MAJ Seth Leopold, William Beaumont Army Medical Center, does hip surgery; MAJ Kurt L. Maggio, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, removes tattoo with laser; SSG Annie Tavary poses with medic mural she painted at her unit’s Montana drill hall.
- U.S. Army Dental Corps celebrates 90th anniversary March 3. It has come a long way since 1911, when no dentist could rank higher than first lieutenant.
- Air Force podiatry team assigned to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center uses high-tech gear to quickly fashion orthotic shoe inserts that combat foot and back problems.
- On comments page, CPT Barbara Lockbaum gives leadership tips and Jean Schucker emphasizes the need to make time for mammograms.

● Article from Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine offers tips on what to do about impaired vision and a sidebar on websites offering additional information.